

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00099 280819Z

10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 FRB-02 TRSE-00 COME-00 OMB-01 /068 W

----- 064143

R 271525Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1078

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LEBANON

US INT CAIRO EGYPT 0014

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0099

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : EFIN, BA

SUBJECT : F.N.C.B. BANK REGIONAL OFFICE RETURNING TO  
BEIRUT

1. THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK IN MANAMA HAS INFORMED US THAT ITS MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL OFFICE IS MOVING FROM MANAMA TO BEIRUT EFFECTIVE APRIL 15. THIS IMPLIES NO DIMINUTION OF INTEREST IN THE GULF BUT RATHER REPRESENTS AN ESTIMATE THAT THE ECONOMIC/DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER OF GRAVITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL SHIFT TO THE ARAB COUNTRIES OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, ESPECIALLY EGYPT, IN THE POST ARAB-ISRAEL SETTLEMENT PERIOD.

2. IN CONVEYING FOREGOING TO BAHRAINI MINISTRY OF FINANCE, REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF F.N.C.B., ROBERT GRANT, TELLS US THAT HE STRESSED LOCAL BRANCES OF F.N.C.B. IN MANAMA AND ELSEWHERE IN GULF WOULD REMAIN. HOWEVER, TOP F.N.C.B. MANAGEMENT IN NEW YORK HAD ESTIMATED THAT VERY LARGE PORTION OF CAPITAL SURPLUSES FROM ARAB OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES WOULD PERFORCE BE SPENT IN MORE POPULOUS ARAB  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANAMA 00099 280819Z

COUNTRIES WITH RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL OF SKILLS. BEIRUT

REGIONAL OFFICE WITH GREATLY AUGMENTED STAFF WOULD PUT F.N.C.B. CLOSER TO THE ACTION AND IMPROVE ITS CHANCES OF PARTICIPATING IN IT. FINANCE MINISTRY DID NOT EXPRESS UNDUE DISAPPOINTMENT AND APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE LOGIC OF F.N.C.B. MOVE.

3. COMMENT: THE MOVE OF F.N.C.B. BANK'S MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL OFFICES FROM BEIRUT TO MANAMA IN 1971 HAS OFTEN BEEN POINTED TO AS CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT BAHRAIN IS THE BEST LOCATION FOR CONDUCTION GULF-WIDE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES. THUS THE BAHRAINIS WILL BE PSYCHOLOGICALLY PAINED BY THIS MOVE ALTHOUGH THE ACTUAL LOSS TO THE ECONOMY HERE IS INSUBSTANTIAL. KILLGORE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BANKS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974MANAMA00099  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** MANAMA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t1974026/aaaaafew.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** : F.N.C.B. BANK REGIONAL OFFICE RETURNING TO BEIRUT  
**TAGS:** EFIN, BA, LE, FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005